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005514 WM31/0227  
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EXAMINER

POKRZYWA, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

18

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/997,706

Applicant(s)

EJIRI, SEISHI

Examiner

Joseph R. Pokrzywa

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2000.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 11/21/00, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1 through 23** are pending.

### *Response to Arguments*

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 1, 7, 13, and 18 through 23**, filed 11/21/00 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
3. In response to applicant's arguments regarding the rejection of **claim 1**, as amended, being anticipated by Kikuchi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901), stating on page 16, first paragraph, that the registered data of Kikuchi, which is notified to the data processing terminal, is not equivalent to transmission result information, as claimed in amended claim 1, since the registered data stored in a parameter table is abbreviated dialing information. The examiner notes that in column 17, lines 60 through 67 of Kikuchi, the stored contents of the parameter table 26 are transmitted to the fax server 1, wherein the data stored in the parameter table 26 includes abbreviated dialing information **and communication history data which express ... the results of the communications with the opposite faxes 6**. Therefore, it can be seen that Kikuchi teaches of notifying the data processing terminal (fax server 1) of transmission result information (column 17, lines 55 through 67), wherein a notification unit notifies the data processing terminal (fax server 1) of the transmission result information (column 17, lines 60 through 67) in

accordance with a change in state of the data communication system (column 18, lines 7 through 19), as required by the limitation of claim 1.

Continuing, in response to applicant's argument on page 16, second paragraph, stating that Kikuchi fails to teach of a notification unit, adapted to notify the data processing terminal, via said connector, of transmission result information representing a data transmission performed by said data transmitter based on the designation inputted by said operation input unit, wherein said notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system. Kikuchi teaches of a notification unit (operation control unit 22 with the parameter table 26, column 5, line 59 through column 6, line 3, and column 17, lines 60 through 67), adapted to notify the data processing terminal (fax server 1), via the connector (LAN control unit 21) of transmission result information (column 17, lines 55 through 67) representing a data transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit, wherein the notification unit notifies the data processing terminal (fax server 1) of the transmission result information (column 17, lines 60 through 67, wherein the transmission result information includes communication history data which includes the results of the communications with the opposite faxes 6) in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system (column 18, lines 7 through 19).

4. Therefore, the rejection of *claim 1*, as cited in the Office action dated 11/21/00, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Kikuchi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901) remains, and is repeated in this Office action.

Art Unit: 2622

5. In response to applicant's arguments regarding **claims 18 and 21 through 23**, on page 16, last paragraph through page 17, stating that Kikuchi fails to teach of notifying a data terminal of transmission result information, which is the same feature discussed above in claim 1. As discussed above, Kikuchi teaches of notifying a data processing terminal (fax server 1) of transmission result information representing a data transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit, wherein the notification unit notifies the data processing terminal (fax server 1) of the transmission result information (column 17, lines 60 through 67, wherein the transmission result information includes communication history data which includes the results of the communications with the opposite faxes 6) in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system (column 18, lines 7 through 19).

6. Therefore, the rejection of **claims 21 and 22**, as cited in the Office action dated 11/21/00, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Kikuchi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901) remains, and is repeated in this Office action. Further, the rejection of **claims 18 and 23**, as cited in the Office action dated 11/21/00, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kikuchi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901) in view of Hashimoto *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,644,404) remains, and is repeated in this Office action.

7. In response to applicant's arguments regarding the rejection of **claim 7**, stating that Kikuchi fails to teach of any structure for determining whether an ID representing a user on a network is designated, and for controlling notification to the user of information representing a data transmission, based on a determination result. The examiner notes the preamble and

Art Unit: 2622

limitations in the claim, stating "A data communication system comprising ... a notification unit, ... a determination unit, ... and a controller". Kikuchi shows a system in Fig. 1, comprising the remote fax 9, the fax server 1, and the opposite faxes 6. Further, Kikuchi teaches of a notification unit (fax communication control unit 20 of remote fax 9), a determination unit (communication management unit 10 in fax server 1, which is part of the data communication system as a whole, see Figs. 1 and 3), and a controller (communication management unit 10 in fax server 1, which is part of the data communication system as a whole, see Figs. 1 and 3). Although the structures of the determination unit and controller are in different apparatus as the notification unit, the fax server 1 and the remote fax 9 are both part of the system disclosed as a whole in Kikuchi.

8. Therefore, the rejection of **claim 7**, as cited in the Office action dated 11/21/00, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Kikuchi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901) remains, and is repeated, with a complete new discussion in this Office action. Further, for the same reasons discussed above, the rejection of **claim 19**, as cited in the Office action dated 11/21/00, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kikuchi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901) in view of Hashimoto *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,644,404) remains, and is repeated, with a complete new discussion in this Office action.

9. In response to applicant's arguments regarding the rejection of **claim 13**, stating on page 20, that Kikuchi fails to teach of independently storing the two different types of communication result information. Kikuchi teaches of independently storing the communication result information received in the reception step (column 17, lines 60 through 67) and communication result information representing a data communication based on an instruction (process of Fig.

Art Unit: 2622

10) in the instruction step (see Fig. 7, column 6, line 64 through column 7, line 24), wherein the user identifier of **each** opposite communication party with the number of sheets of **each** communication, along with the result of the communication are stored in management table 32, read in column 7, lines 10 through 25. Since each of the user identifier's and each of the communications are stored with the corresponding communication result, it can be interpreted that the individual communication results are stored independently, whether the result information is received in the reception step, or based on an instruction in the instruction step.

10. Therefore, the rejection of **claim 13**, as cited in the Office action dated 11/21/00, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Kikuchi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901) remains, and is repeated in this Office action. Further, for the same reasons discussed above, the rejection of **claim 20**, as cited in the Office action dated 11/21/00, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kikuchi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901) in view of Hashimoto *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,644,404) remains, and is repeated in this Office action.

11. In response to applicant's arguments regarding the rejection of **claim 23**, stating on page 21, last paragraph through page 22, stating that Kikuchi and Hashimoto fail to teach of a computer-readable program that includes code for notifying a data terminal of transmission result information, which is the same feature discussed above in claim 1. As discussed above, Kikuchi teaches of notifying a data processing terminal (fax server 1) of transmission result information representing a data transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit, wherein the notification unit notifies the data processing terminal (fax server 1) of the transmission result information (column 17, lines 60 through 67,

Art Unit: 2622

wherein the transmission result information includes communication history data which includes the results of the communications with the opposite faxes 6) in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system (column 18, lines 7 through 19). Since Hashimoto teaches of a computer readable program (column 5, lines 1 through 12) stored in a storage medium (HD 13) for controlling a data communication system (facsimile server terminal 1, column 4, lines 52 through 58) connected to a data processing terminal (terminal 3, column 4, lines 52 through 58) through a connector (LAN 4 connected to server terminal 1 in Fig. 2, and column 4, lines 48 through 56), it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Hashimoto's teachings in Kikuchi's system, thereby controlling the data communication system using a computer readable program being stored in a storage medium.

12. Therefore, the rejection of *claim 23*, as cited in the Office action dated 11/21/00, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kikuchi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901) in view of Hashimoto *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,644,404) remains, and is repeated in this Office action.



***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

13. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

14. **Claims 1 through 4, 6, 7, 9 through 17, 21, and 22** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kikuchi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901, cited in the Office action dated 7/17/00).

Regarding **claim 1**, Kikuchi discloses a data communication system (remote fax 9, see Fig. 4) which comprises a connector (LAN control unit 21), adapted to connect a data processing terminal (fax server 1) to the data communication system (see Fig. 1, and column 5, lines 46 through 58), an operation input unit (operation control unit 22), adapted to receive a manual designation manually inputted by an operator (column 8, line 55 through column 9, line 9, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line 5), with the operation input unit being a part of the data communication system (see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 59 through 62), a data transmitter (fax communication control unit 20), adapted to transmit data based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit (column 9, line 44 through column 10, column 10, line 56, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line 28), with the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal (fax 6) via a line that does not include the connector (public switched network 5, column 10, lines 57 through 67), and a notification unit (operation control unit 22 with the parameter table 26, column 5, line 59 through column 6, line 3, and column 17, lines 60 through 67), adapted to notify the data processing terminal (fax server 1), via the connector (LAN control unit 21) of transmission result information (column 17, lines 55 through 67) representing a data transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation

Art Unit: 2622

inputted by the operation input unit, wherein the notification unit notifies the data processing terminal (fax server 1) of the transmission result information (column 17, lines 60 through 67, wherein the transmission result information includes communication history data which includes the results of the communications with the opposite faxes 6) in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system (column 18, lines 7 through 19).

Regarding *claim 2*, Kikuchi discloses the data communication system discussed in claim 1 above, and further teaches that the data transmitter transmits data on the based on a second designation from the data processing terminal connected to the data communication system via the connector (column 11, line 61 through column 12, line 28).

Regarding *claim 3*, Kikuchi discloses the data communication system discussed in claim 1 above, and further teaches of the transmission result information notified by the notification unit includes a transmission destination (see Fig. 7, column 10, lines 10 through 25, and column 17, lines 55 through 67).

Regarding *claim 4*, Kikuchi discloses the data communication system discussed in claim 1 above, and further teaches of the notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information in accordance with a change in information to be notified (column 17, line 55 through column 18, line 19).

Regarding *claim 6*, Kikuchi discloses the data communication system discussed in claim 1 above, and further teaches of the notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of data transmitted by the data transmitter (column 17, lines 55 through 67).

Regarding *claim 7*, Kikuchi discloses a data communication system (remote fax 9 and fax server 1, see Fig. 4) which comprises a connector (fax communication control unit 20, connected

Art Unit: 2622

to public switched network 5), adapted to connect a network (public switched network 5) that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals (faxes 6, seen in Fig. 1) to the data communication system (see Fig. 1, and column 5, lines 53 through 56), an operation input unit (operation control unit 22), adapted to receive a manual designation manually inputted by an operator (column 8, line 55 through column 9, line 9, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line 5), with the operation input unit being a part of the data communication system (see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 59 through 62), a designation unit (fax communication control unit 20, column 8, lines 58 through 66), adapted to designate an ID (a destination user identifier, column 8, lines 58 through 66, or destination telephone number, in column 12, lines 1 through 5), representing a user on the network connected by said connector (faxes 6 connected to public switched network 5), from the manual designation inputted by way of an operation of the operation input unit (column 8, lines 58 through 66, and column 12, lines 1 through 5), a data transmitter (LAN control unit 21), adapted to transmit data based on a designation inputted by the operation input unit in accordance with an ID designation performed by the designation unit (column 8, lines 58 through 66), with the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal (fax server 1) via a line (LAN 4) that does not include the connector (see Figs. 1 and 4, and column 8, line 66 through column 9, line 9), a notification unit (fax communication control unit 20), adapted to notify the user on the network connected by the connector (fax 6 connected to public switched network 5), via the connector, of information representing a data transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit and in accordance with the ID designation performed by the designation unit (see Fig. 10, step 1008, column 10, lines 50 through 67), a determination unit (communication management unit

10 in fax server 1, which is part of the data communication system as a whole, see Figs. 1 and 3), adapted to determine whether or not the ID is designated by the designation unit (steps 1006 and 1007, column 10, lines 44 through 56), and a controller (communication management unit 10 in fax server 1, which is part of the data communication system as a whole, see Figs. 1 and 3), adapted to control the notification unit in accordance with a determination result of the determination unit (steps 1007 and 1008, column 10, lines 44 through 67).

Regarding *claim 9*, Kikuchi discloses the data communication system discussed in claim 7 above, and further teaches that the ID designated by the designation unit is information representing a user on a network (destination user identifiers, column 7, lines 10 through 16, and column 8, lines 58 through 67).

Regarding *claim 10*, Kikuchi discloses the data communication system discussed in claim 7 above, and further teaches that the data transmitter transmits data, based on the designated ID, from the data processing terminal connected to the data communication system via the connector (data received by remote fax 9 from opposite fax 6, column 6, lines 39 through 48, and column 7, lines 16 through 25).

Regarding *claim 11*, Kikuchi discloses the data communication system discussed in claim 7 above, and further teaches of the information notified by the notification unit includes a transmission destination (column 10, lines 50 through 67).

Regarding *claim 12*, Kikuchi discloses the data communication system discussed in claim 7 above, and further teaches of the notification unit notifying the data processing terminal of the data transmitted by the data transmitter (see Fig. 10, column 9, line 56 through column 10, line 67).

Regarding *claim 13*, Kikuchi discloses a method of controlling a data processing terminal (fax server 1, see Figs. 1 and 3), connected, via a connector (LAN control unit 21) to a data communication system (remote fax 9) for performing data communication with a destination (opposite fax 6), and of controlling the data communication system. Kikuchi's method comprises an input step, in which an operator manually inputs a destination (column 8, line 55 through column 9, line 9, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line 5), with the input step being performed at an input unit (operation control unit 22) that is a part of the data communication system (see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 59 through 62), a transmission step, in which data is transmitted (column 9, line 44 through column 10, line 56, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line 28) to an external data communication terminal (fax 6) via a line that does not include the connector (public switched network 5, column 10, lines 57 through 67), a reception step, in which communication result information (communication history data, wherein the transmission result information includes communication history data which includes the results of the communications with the opposite faxes 6, seen in column 17, lines 60 through 67) representing a data communication performed in accordance with a manual operation inputted by the operator in the input step is received from the data communication system (column 8, line 58 through column 9, line 9, and see Fig. 10, column 9, line 63 through column 10, line 67, whereby a document is transmitted to a destination user identifier and destination telephone number of a fax 6 which was entered by a user of the operation control unit 22, therein having information regarding the result of this communication in the history data which is transmitted by the remote fax 9 and received in the receiving step by the fax server 1, column 17, lines 60 through 67), a step of instructing the data communication system (remote fax 9) to communicate with the

destination (see Fig. 10, and column 9, line 44 through column 10, line 67), and a step of independently storing the communication result information received in the reception step (column 17, lines 60 through 67) and communication result information representing a data communication based on an instruction (process of Fig. 10) in the instruction step (see Fig. 7, column 6, line 64 through column 7, line 24, wherein the user identifier of **each** opposite communication party with the number of sheets of **each** communication, along with the result of the communication are stored in management table 32, read in column 7, lines 10 through 25. Since each of the user identifier's and each of the communications are stored with the corresponding communication result, it can be interpreted that the individual communication results are stored independently, whether the result information is received in the reception step, or based on an instruction in the instruction step).

Regarding *claim 14*, Kikuchi discloses the method discussed in claim 13 above, and further teaches of the information representing a user ID received in the reception step (user identifier, column 8, lines 58 through 66) and the communication result information related to the data communication are stored in an area corresponding to the user ID in the storage step (see Fig. 7, column 7, lines 10 through 25, and column 17, lines 55 through 67).

Regarding *claim 15*, Kikuchi discloses the method discussed in claim 13 above, and further teaches of the data received by the data communication system (remote fax 9) is received in the reception step (column 17, line 55 through column 18, line 19).

Regarding *claim 16*, Kikuchi discloses the method discussed in claim 13 above, and further teaches of the communication result information received in the reception step includes a

Art Unit: 2622

transmission destination (see Fig. 7, column 7, lines 10 through 25, and column 17, lines 55 through 67).

Regarding *claim 17*, Kikuchi discloses a method of controlling a system (see Figs. 1, 3, and 4) that includes a data communication system (remote fax 9) for performing data communication with a destination (opposite fax 6) and a data processing terminal (fax server 1) for controlling the data communication system. Kikuchi's method comprises, at the data communication system (remote fax 9), the steps of designating an ID based on a manual operation (column 8, lines 58 through 64) performed by a user using an operation input unit (operation control unit 22) of the data communication system (see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 59 through 62), performing data communication with an external data communication terminal (opposite fax 6) in accordance with the ID designation (column 8, lines 58 through 66, and column 10, lines 57 through 67), and notifying the data processing terminal (fax server 1), via a connector (LAN control unit 21) connecting the data communication system and the data processing terminal, of communication result information representing the data communication with the external data communication terminal (column 8, line 58 through column 9, line 9, and column 17, line 55 through column 18, line 19, wherein the transmission result information includes communication history data which includes the results of the communications with the opposite faxes 6). Kikuchi's method further comprises, at the data processing terminal (fax server 1), the steps of instructing the data communication system (remote fax 9) to communicate with a destination (opposite fax 6, column 9, line 44 through column 10, line 67), receiving communication result information notified by the data communication system in the notifying step (column 17, line 47 through column 18, line 19), and independently storing the

Art Unit: 2622

communication result information related to the data communication based on an instruction in the instructing step (process of Fig. 10) and communication result information received from the data communication system (column 17, lines 60 through 67) in the receiving step (see Fig. 7, column 6, line 64 through column 7, line 24, wherein the user identifier of **each** opposite communication party with the number of sheets of **each** communication, along with the result of the communication are stored in management table 32, read in column 7, lines 10 through 25. Since each of the user identifier's and each of the communications are stored with the corresponding communication result, it can be interpreted that the individual communication results are stored independently, whether the result information is received in the reception step, or based on an instruction in the instruction step).

Regarding *claim 21*, Kikuchi discloses a data communication system (remote fax 9, see Fig. 4) that communicates with an external device (opposite fax 6) via a transmission path (public switched network 5), and that communicates with a data processing terminal (fax server 1), comprising a signal path (LAN 4) through which the data communication system (remote fax 9) communicates with the data processing terminal, with the signal path (LAN 4) being a path different from the transmission path (public switched network 5, see Fig. 1), an input section (operation control unit 22) through which an operator manually inputs a designation to the data communication system (column 8, line 55 through column 9, line 9, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line 5), a transmitter (fax communication control unit 20) that, based upon the manually inputted designation, transmits data through the transmission path (public switched network 5) to the external device (column 10, lines 57 through 67, and column 12, lines 19 through 28), and a notifier (LAN control unit 21) which, because of a change in state of the data



communication system (column 18, lines 7 through 19), notifies the data processing terminal (fax server 1) through the signal path (LAN 4) of transmission result information (column 17, lines 60 through 67, wherein the transmission result information includes communication history data which includes the results of the communications with the opposite faxes 6) corresponding to the data transmitted by the transmitter based upon the manually inputted designation (column 17, lines 55 through 67).

Regarding *claim 22*, Kikuchi discloses a method of controlling a data communication system (remote fax 9, see Fig. 4) that communicates with an external device (opposite fax 6) and with a data processing terminal (fax server 1), comprising a step of manually inputting a designation to the data communication system (column 8, line 55 through column 9, line 9, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line 5), a step of transmitting data to the external device (column 10, lines 57 through 67, and column 12, lines 19 through 28), via a transmission path (public switched network 5), based upon the manually inputted designation, with the transmitting step producing a transmission result (column 7, lines 10 through 25), and a step of notifying, as a consequence of a change in a state of the data communication system (column 18, lines 7 through 19), and via a signal path (LAN 4) that does not correspond to the transmission path, the data processing terminal (fax server 1) of the transmission result (column 17, lines 55 through 67, wherein the transmission result information includes communication history data which includes the results of the communications with the opposite faxes 6).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

15. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

16. **Claim 5** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901, cited in the Office action dated 7/17/00) in view of Otsuka (U.S. Patent Number 5,579,126, cited in the Office action dated 7/17/00).

Regarding **claim 5**, Kikuchi discloses the data communication system discussed in claim 1 above, and further teaches of the notification unit notifying the data processing terminal of information representing the data transmission, but fails to specifically disclose of notifying *upon completion* of the data transmission performed by the data transmitter. Otsuka discloses a data communication system (facsimile apparatus 50) which comprises a connector (concentrator 40), adapted to connect a data processing terminal (personal computer PC1, PC2, PCm) to the data communication system (see Fig. 1), an operation input unit (operation/display unit 10, see Fig. 2), adapted to receive a manual designation manually inputted by an operator (column 4, lines 27 through 31), with the operation input unit being part of the data communication system (see Fig. 2), a data transmitter (NCU 19), adapted to transmit data through a line that does not include the connector (telephone line, step 107 in Fig. 4, column 6, lines 54 through 60), and a notification unit (LAN interface 16) for notifying the data processing terminal (personal computer PC1, PC2, PCm) through the connector (concentrator 40) of a transmission result information (transmission result record lists in Figs. 3C and 3D, column 5, line 44 through column 6, line 4) representing a data transmission (step 203 in Fig. 5, column 7, lines 33 through 44). Further, Otsuka teaches that the notification unit (LAN interface unit 16) notifies information related to data transmission

Art Unit: 2622

upon completion of the data transmission performed by the data transmitter (step 110 in Fig. 4, and step 203 in Fig. 5, column 6, line 61 through column 7, line 44). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Otsuka's teachings in Kikuchi's system. Kikuchi's system would be easily modified with the inclusion of Otsuka's teachings, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature.

17. **Claims 8, 18 through 20, and 23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901, cited in the Office action dated 7/17/00) in view of Hashimoto *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,644,404, cited in the Office action dated 7/17/00).

Regarding **claim 8**, Kikuchi discloses the data communication system discussed in claim 7 above, but fails to specifically teach of the notification unit not performing a notification process in an absence of an ID designated by the designation unit. Hashimoto discloses the data communication system (facsimile server terminal 1, column 4, lines 52 through 58), having a notification unit not performing notification in an absence of an ID designated by the designation means (column 7, lines 46 through 67, and column 8, lines 15 through 32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Hashimoto's teachings in Kikuchi's system. Kikuchi's system would be easily modified with the inclusion of Hashimoto's teachings, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature.

Regarding *claim 18*, Kikuchi discloses a data communication system (remote fax 9, see Fig. 4) which comprises a connector (LAN control unit 21), adapted to connect a data processing terminal (fax server 1) to the data communication system (see Fig. 1, and column 5, lines 46 through 58), and operates with a method which includes an input step of receiving a designation manually inputted by an operator (column 8, line 55 through column 9, line 9, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line 5) using an operation unit (operation control unit 22) that is part of the data communication system (see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 59 through 62), a transmission step of transmitting data based on the designation manually inputted in the input step (column 9, line 44 through column 10, column 10, line 56, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line 28), with the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal (fax 6) via a line that does not include the connector (public switched network 5, column 10, lines 57 through 67), and a notification step of notifying the data processing terminal (fax server 1), via the connector (LAN control unit 21) of transmission result information (column 17, lines 55 through 67) representing a data transmission performed in the transmission step based on the designation manually inputted in the input step (column 17, lines 60 through 67, wherein the transmission result information includes communication history data which includes the results of the communications with the opposite faxes 6) and in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system (column 18, lines 7 through 19).

However, Kikuchi fails to specifically teach of controlling the data communication system using a computer readable program being stored in a storage medium. Hashimoto discloses a computer readable program (column 5, lines 1 through 12) stored in a storage medium (HD 13) for controlling a data communication system (facsimile server terminal 1,

Art Unit: 2622

column 4, lines 52 through 58) connected to a data processing terminal (terminal 3, column 4, lines 52 through 58) through a connector (LAN 4 connected to server terminal 1 in Fig. 2, and column 4, lines 48 through 56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Hashimoto's teachings in Kikuchi's system, thereby controlling the data communication system using a computer readable program being stored in a storage medium. Kikuchi's system would conform with well known standards by incorporating a memory which includes control programs, as it is well known in the art to use programs stored in a memory for controlling facsimile machines, as recognized by Hashimoto.

Regarding *claim 19*, Kikuchi discloses a data communication system (remote fax 9 and server 1, see Fig. 4) which comprises a connector (fax communication control unit 20, connected to public switched network 5), adapted to connect a network (public switched network 5) that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals (faxes 6, seen in Fig. 1) to the data communication system (see Fig. 1, and column 5, lines 53 through 56), and operates with a method which includes a step of receiving a designation manually inputted by an operator (column 8, line 55 through column 9, line 9, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line 5) using an operation unit (operation control unit 22) that is part of the data communication system (see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 59 through 62), a designation step of designating an ID (a destination user identifier, column 8, lines 58 through 66, or destination telephone number, in column 12, lines 1 through 5), representing a user on the network connected by said connector (faxes 6 connected to public switched network 5), from the manual inputted designation (column 8, lines 58 through 66, and column 12, lines 1 through 5), a transmission step of transmitting data based on a designation manually inputted in the input step and in accordance with the ID designated in

Art Unit: 2622

the designation step (column 8, lines 58 through 66), with the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal (fax server 1) via a line (LAN 4) that does not include the connector (see Figs. 1 and 4, and column 8, line 66 through column 9, line 9), a notification step for notifying the user on the network connected by the connector (fax 6 connected to public switched network 5), via the connector, of information representing a data communication performed in the transmission step based on the designation manually inputted in the input step and in accordance with the ID designated in the designation step (see Fig. 10, step 1008, column 10, lines 50 through 67), a determination step of determining whether an ID is designated in the designation step (steps 1006 and 1007, column 10, lines 44 through 56), and a control step of controlling the notification step in accordance with a determination result of the determination step (steps 1007 and 1008, column 10, lines 44 through 67).

However, Kikuchi fails to specifically teach of controlling the data communication system using a computer readable program being stored in a storage medium. Hashimoto discloses a computer readable program (column 5, lines 1 through 12) stored in a storage medium (HD 13) for controlling a data communication system (facsimile server terminal 1, column 4, lines 52 through 58) connected to a data processing terminal (terminal 3, column 4, lines 52 through 58) through a connector (LAN 4 connected to server terminal 1 in Fig. 2, and column 4, lines 48 through 56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Hashimoto's teachings in Kikuchi's system, thereby controlling the data communication system using a computer readable program being stored in a storage medium. Kikuchi's system would conform with well known standards

Art Unit: 2622

by incorporating a memory which includes control programs, as it is well known in the art to use programs stored in a memory for controlling facsimile machines, as recognized by Hashimoto.

Regarding *claim 20*, Kikuchi discloses a method of controlling a data processing terminal (fax server 1, see Figs. 1 and 3), connected, via a connector (LAN control unit 21) to a data communication system (remote fax 9) for performing data communication with a destination (opposite fax 6), and of controlling the data communication system. Kikuchi's method comprises an input step, in which an operator manually inputs a designation (column 8, line 55 through column 9, line 9, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line 5), with the input step being performed at an input unit (operation control unit 22) that is a part of the data communication system (see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 59 through 62), a transmission step, in which data is transmitted (column 9, line 44 through column 10, line 56, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line 28) based on the designation inputted in the input step, with the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal (fax 6) via a line that does not include the connector (public switched network 5, column 10, lines 57 through 67), a reception step, in which is received communication result information (communication history data, wherein the transmission result information includes communication history data which includes the results of the communications with the opposite faxes 6, seen in column 17, lines 60 through 67) representing a data communication performed by the data communication system based on the designation manually inputted by the operator in the input step from the data communication system (column 8, line 58 through column 9, line 9, and see Fig. 10, column 9, line 63 through column 10, line 67, whereby a document is transmitted to a destination user identifier and destination telephone number of a fax 6 which was entered by a user of the operation control unit

Art Unit: 2622

22, therein having information regarding the result of this communication in the history data which is transmitted by the remote fax 9 and received in the receiving step by the fax server 1, column 17, lines 60 through 67), a step in which the data communication system (remote fax 9) is instructed to communicate with the destination by the data processing terminal (see Fig. 10, and column 9, line 44 through column 10, line 67), and a step in which is independently stored the communication result information received in the reception step (column 17, lines 60 through 67) and communication result information representing a data communication based on an instruction (process of Fig. 10) in the instruction step (see Fig. 7, column 6, line 64 through column 7, line 24, wherein the user identifier of **each** opposite communication party with the number of sheets of **each** communication, along with the result of the communication are stored in management table 32, read in column 7, lines 10 through 25. Since each of the user identifier's and each of the communications are stored with the corresponding communication result, it can be interpreted that the individual communication results are stored independently, whether the result information is received in the reception step, or based on an instruction in the instruction step).

However, Kikuchi fails to specifically teach of controlling the data communication system using a computer readable program being stored in a storage medium. Hashimoto discloses a computer readable program (column 5, lines 1 through 12) stored in a storage medium (HD 13) for controlling a data processing terminal (terminal 3, column 4, lines 52 through 58), connected to a data communication system (facsimile server terminal 1, column 4, lines 52 through 58) for performing data communication with a destination (fax 2, column 4, lines 4 through 52, 62 and 63). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary



skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Hashimoto's teachings in Kikuchi's system, thereby controlling the data communication system using a computer readable program being stored in a storage medium. Kikuchi's system would conform with well known standards by incorporating a memory which includes control programs, as it is well known in the art to use programs stored in a memory for controlling computers and facsimile machines, as recognized by Hashimoto.

Regarding *claim 23*, Kikuchi discloses a method of controlling a data communication system (remote fax 9, see Fig. 4) that communicates with an external device (opposite fax 6) and with a data processing terminal (fax server 1), comprising a step of manually inputting a designation to the data communication system (column 8, line 55 through column 9, line 9, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line 5), a step of transmitting data to the external device (column 10, lines 57 through 67, and column 12, lines 19 through 28), via a transmission path (public switched network 5), based upon the inputted designation, with the transmitting step producing a transmission result (column 7, lines 10 through 25), and a step of notifying, as a consequence of a change in a state of the data communication system (column 18, lines 7 through 19), and via a signal path (LAN 4) that does not correspond to the transmission path, the data processing terminal (fax server 1) of the transmission result (column 17, lines 55 through 67, wherein the transmission result information includes communication history data which includes the results of the communications with the opposite faxes 6).

However, Kikuchi fails to specifically teach of controlling the data communication system using a computer readable program being stored in a storage medium. Hashimoto discloses a computer readable program (column 5, lines 1 through 12) stored in a storage

Art Unit: 2622

medium (HD 13) for controlling a data communication system (facsimile server terminal 1, column 4, lines 52 through 58) connected to a data processing terminal (terminal 3, column 4, lines 52 through 58) through a connector (LAN 4 connected to server terminal 1 in Fig. 2, and column 4, lines 48 through 56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Hashimoto's teachings in Kikuchi's system, thereby controlling the data communication system using a computer readable program being stored in a storage medium. Kikuchi's system would conform with well known standards by incorporating a memory which includes control programs, as it is well known in the art to use programs stored in a memory for controlling computers and facsimile machines, as recognized by Hashimoto.

### *Conclusion*

18. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2622


19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (703) 305-0146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 306-5406 for regular communications and (703) 306-5406 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Joseph R. Pokrzywa  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2622

jrj  
February 21, 2001

  
EDWARD COLES  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600